

41 Killed, 47 Survive As Airliner, Air Force Transport Crash In U. S.



3 PASSENGERS SURVIVED—Firemen and rescue workers speed recovery of bodies in crash of DC4 after

takeoff on south edge of Seattle. Of 74 persons aboard plane, 41 survived. (UPI Telephoto.)

Nevada Crews Near C54 Hulk

Fiery DC4 Hits Seattle House

LAS VEGAS, Nev., (UPI)—

A DC4 jet plane chartered by soldiers returning home from the Orient crashed into a house and burned on the southern outskirts of Seattle during a snowstorm early Friday and 27 of the 74 persons aboard were killed.

The bomber flew over the 1,100-foot mountain as a ground party set out about after their radio-equipped truck was stopped by snow.

The big four-engine DC4, carrying Air Force and Atomic Energy Commission personnel, skidded into the mountain Thursday during a snowstorm.

It was on route to the ADC under weapons test site south of here. When it was reported more than seven hours overdue, a search was launched.

Major J. E. March, pilot of the DC4, was on the ground when the plane crashed. He said the plane was "fairly well" intact, only one motor being damaged from its wings. It was charred badly, he said.

His Ridge March said the plane apparently swept through the snow and at a last split second tried to climb over a ridge where the mountain loomed in front of it.

It hit a ridge about 500 yards below the peak on the southeast side, March said it apparently slid about 50 feet before burning into flames.

The ground rescue party of seven Army men was reported down hills below the wreckage in a steep ravine. Huge boulders and deep snow in the pockets were making the work rough. The Air Force said it appeared it would take hours to reach the site because of the terrain.

Obscured By Clouds The high ridges of Mt. Charleston, a civilian observer, then point for past atomic blasts, were obscured by clouds earlier Friday morning.

Temperatures in the area were only five degrees above zero.

The big peak is in the vicinity of Table Rock Mountain, site of a 1941 winter crash which claimed the life of actress Carol Lombard and 21 other persons.

The President also underwent a physical examination which showed he is still progressing "very satisfactorily" from his Sept. 24 heart attack.

Budget Director Rowland L. Hughes said he told the President he hopes to balance the budget this year but cannot say yet whether the hoped-for tax cut will be possible.

8 Killed, 3 Hurt As Train Splits Truck In Two

NEWPORT, Mich. (UPI)—

Monroe County sheriff's officers said at least eight railroad freight trains were killed and three others injured Friday when the truck in which they were riding was split in two by an Indianapolis-to-Detroit New York Central train.

The crash occurred Friday morning at an ungarded crossing on the outskirts of Newport, Mich.

There were 27 bodies in the morgue. Forty-seven survivors were accounted for. The Army said 25 of the dead had been identified as soldiers. Two other bodies were unidentified.

One of the unidentified dead was believed to be Earl McGrath, a pilot who was "dead-heading" a ride with his wife and three children.

The first unofficial list of survivors showed no residents from the Monroe County.

Several survivors said an explosion occurred in the plane before the crash. Others said one of the craft's four engines came loose and crashed into the fuselage. The crash occurred shortly after the monsooned plane had taken off from Boeing Field, an airport inside the Seattle city limit.

Seattle Fire Dept. The possibility of sabotage was being investigated.

The soldiers, who chartered the plane themselves, had arrived here Thursday aboard a Navy transport vessel from Japan where they had been on duty.

Most of them were planning to return to Japan after Thanksgiving.

The plane shattered off the top of several towering fir trees before it smashed into the dwelling which was occupied by Mrs. Colin Deering and her five children. The house burned but the women and the children escaped. Her husband was not home at the time.

Rarely Off Ground The Civil Aeronautics Administration traffic control center said the crash occurred within the same minutes as takeoff, so under normal conditions the plane would have been about 400 feet off the ground.

The crash scene was close to a heavily-populated shopping center. Wreckage and bodies were strewn over a path 400 yards long.

Many of the passenger were able to walk away from the wreck. Some escaped through holes torn in the fuselage.

Others were trapped in the twisted metal and rescue workers had to cut through wreckage to remove the charred bodies.

Ambulances and rescue workers came from miles around, driving through sleet and over dangerous icy roads. The victims were taken to four hospitals.

The plane was headed from

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ROXBORO, N.C. (UPI)—Three men and two girls were